Inadequate supply of high-grade Silk Yarn

520. SHRI MD. SALIM Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 60 per cent of silk yarn is imported;

(b) whether Government are also aware that over the last few years inadequate supply of high-grade yarn has added to the woes of the Banarasi silk industry, threatening the livelihood of over five lakh people engaged in this country; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir. The estimated consumption of imported yarn in silk production in the country is around 23%.

(b) Under the current Export Import Policy, imports of raw silk are allowed under the Advance Licensing Scheme. The weaving units have been using both the imported raw silk as well as produced indigenously. The quantity of raw silk produced indigenously as well imported during 1993-94 to 1995-96 and the percentage of imported yarn to total silk available to the weaving units is given as under:—

(in Tonnes)

	93-94	94-95	95-96
Indigenous production of raw silk	13691	14579	13909
Qty. of raw silk imported	4892	54Q3	5 4195
Total silk utilised	18583	19982	18104
% of imported silk to total utilised	26	27	23

From the above table no scarcity of high grade yarn is evident and rather there has been a marginal decline in percentage of imported silk to total silk utilised.

(c) Does not arise.

Kashmir issue at the U.N.

521. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kashmir issue had been included in the recent UN Security Council Agenda;

(b) if so, he steps taken by Government to have it deleted from the Agenda and the result thereof; and

(c) whether the UN-Secretary General had lately offered to mediate between India and Pakistan to resolve the issue; if so, the response of India and Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) The Kashmir issue has been on the agenda of the Security Council for several years. No new or additional agenda item on the subject has been inscribed recently. Earlier this year there was a move to delete from the UN Security Council agenda items that had not been active for 5 years. However, a notification by the Secretary General to the General Assembly in October this year, states that no item would be deleted from the list of matters of which the Council is seized without the prior consent of the Member States concerned. Retention of the item would need to be confirmed annually according to a prescribed procedure by a Member State of the United Nations. According to this, deletion of the Kashmir issue would require the con-

sent of both India and Pakistan. As * Pakistan is against the deletion of this item, it continues to remain on the agenda of the Security Council.

(c) The UN Secretary General has expressed his willingness to render whatever assistance may be needed to facilitate an early and peaceful resolution of differences between India and Pakistan, in; cluding Kashmir, provided both India and Pakistan so request. Pakistan has accepted the offer of the Secretary-General. The Government of India, however, remains committed to discussions of all outstanding issues with Pakistan only bilaterally under the Simla Agreement.

Completion of pending irrigation projects in Maharashtra

522. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as many as 39 major irrigation projects are lying incomplete in die State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to complete these projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MIS-HRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of these Projects are given in the Annexure. *[See Appendix 179, Annexure No. 17*

(c) To expedite completion of ongoing major & medium irrigation & multipurpose projects, the Union Government has also bunched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme with budget allocation of Rs. 900 crores during 1996-97 under which Central loan Assistance is provided to the State Governments on matching basis. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 20 crores has been approved for Gosikhurd irrigation project of Maharashtra. Other steps taken for timely completion of the projects are, giving priority to those projects which have made substantial progress, earmarking by the Planning Commission of outlays for important projects, setting up of cost control cells in the States etc.

Repeal of the Illegal Migrants Act, 1983

523. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to repeal the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is proposed to be repealed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Proposals have been received from various quarters for the repeal of the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983. No - decision in the matter has yet been taken.

टेलीफोन सेवा

524. श्री रामजीलाल: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में टेलीफोन-ठीक किये जाने संबंधी स्थिति अत्यंत शोचनीय है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि हिसार में सांसदों के टेलीफोन भी महीनों से ठीक नहीं किये जा रहे हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस स्थिति में सुधार लाने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाए हैं?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा) (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) उक्त (क) को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) माननीय संसद सदस्यों के टेलीफोनों सहित महत्वपूर्ण टेलीफोनों की जांच प्रतिदिन की जाती है और खराब होने की स्थिति में उन्हें शीघ्र ठीक कर दिया जाता है।

(घ) उक्त भाग (ग) को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।